ALIVE
The Final Evolution
9
STORY BY TADASHI KAWASHIMA
ART BY ADACHITOKA

ALIVE

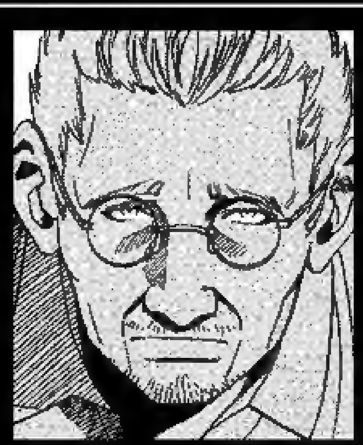
THE FINAL EVOLUTION

We are alive on this planet, and they arrived...

9

STORY / TADASHI KAWASHIMA
ART / ADACHITOKA

contents



Shigeki Katsumata
FORMER DETECTIVE AND A LEADER TYPE AMONG THE "COMRADES" WITH SUPERNATURAL POWERS. RECEIVED ORDERS FROM "THE ONE" AND PLANS TO START A WORLD REVOLUTION.



Yuichi Hirose
TAISUKE'S CLOSE FRIEND. HE USED TO BE WEAK AND SHY, BUT CHANGED PERSONALITIES AFTER HE ACQUIRED SUPERNATURAL POWERS AND KIDNAPPED MEGUMI. ACCOMPANIES KATSUMATA.



Megumi Ochiai
TAISUKE'S CHILDHOOD GIRLFRIEND. SHE ALWAYS ENDS UP ARGUING WITH TAISUKE BECAUSE SHE WORRIES ABOUT HIM SO MUCH. KIDNAPPED BY HIROSE AND CONFINED IN THE HOUSE.



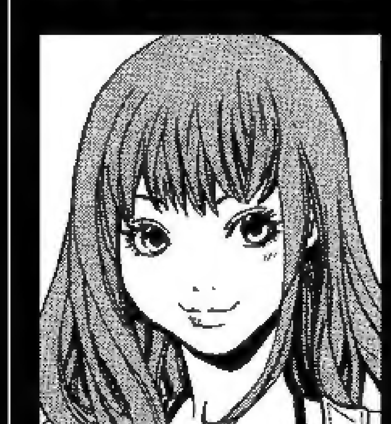
Takumi Yura
ONE OF KATSUMATA'S COMRADES. CONTROLS HIGHLY PRESSURIZED AIR BUBBLES AND CLAIMS TO BE THE LEADER OF HUMANS, BUT SLAUGHTERS PEOPLE MERCILESSLY. HAS FRIZZY HAIR AND WEARS OVERALLS.



Kenichirou Morio
ONE OF KATSUMATA'S COMRADES. CONTROLS WIND TO CREATE SHARP BLADES OF AIR LIKE A KAMAITACHI TO SLICE HUMANS. HATES TAISUKE FOR THE PERMANENT BURN SCAR ON HIS FACE.



Gou Okada
ONE OF KATSUMATA'S COMRADES. KILLS THOSE WHO BREAK A PROMISE WITH HIM USING HIS POWER, "GRIM REAPER'S PROMISE." HAS AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX ABOUT HIS APPEARANCE AND EXISTENCE.



Kanon Mitachi
ONE OF KATSUMATA'S COMRADES. SELF-CENTERED AND MOODY RED-HAIRED GIRL WHO KILLS PEOPLE WITH EXPLOSIONS ON A WHIM. KILLED NAMI'S YOUNGER BROTHER.



Hideo Asou
ONE OF KATSUMATA'S COMRADES. PASTOR WHO PETRIFIES HUMANS TO DEATH BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THAT IT IS A SIN TO LIVE. HIGHLY SKILLED IN MARTIAL ARTS.



Ron Hasegawa
ONE OF KATSUMATA'S COMRADES. CHILD WHO CAN TURN HIS OWN BODY INTO CLEAR LIQUID. ALWAYS WANTS TO PLAY BECAUSE HE'S LONELY.



Taisuke Kanou
HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT WEAK IN FIGHTS, BUT HAS A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE. DURING "NIGHTMARE WEEK," ACQUIRES A SUPERNATURAL POWER TO CONTROL THE HEART. CURRENTLY ON A JOURNEY TO FIND HIROSE AND MEGUMI.



Yuta Takizawa
YOUNG BOY TRAVELING WITH TAISUKE. HAS A DEEP EMOTIONAL SCAR RESULTING FROM WITNESSING HIS MOTHER'S SUICIDE. HAS THE ABILITY TO ISOLATE SPACE AND HAS SAVED TAISUKE SEVERAL TIMES ALREADY.



Nami Kusunoki
HAS THE POWER TO USE CLAWS MADE OF ICE. SEARCHING FOR A RED-HAIRED GIRL TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF HER YOUNGER BROTHER. HATES THOSE WITH SUPERNATURAL POWERS AND HOPES THEY ALL MEET THEIR UNTIMELY END.



Kiyomitsu Misaki
OLD MAN BORN BLIND. CLAIRVOYANT ABILITY TO SEE SOMEONE'S PAST AND FUTURE BY TOUCHING THEM. HAPPENED TO SEE TAISUKE'S FUTURE.



Kyouko Amamiya
PASSIONATE REPORTER OF A WEEKLY GOSSIP MAGAZINE. OPPOSES THE EDITORIAL POLICY OF FOCUSING ON GOSSIP AND FAR-FETCHED OCCULT MATERIAL, AND IS INVESTIGATING THE STRING OF INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE MASS SUICIDES.



Masashi Oda
WEEKLY GOSSIP MAGAZINE REPORTER, JUNIOR TO AMAMIYA. COMES ACROSS AS A LAZY EMPLOYEE, BUT IS SUPPOSEDLY A HARD WORKER. UNFORTUNATELY, AMAMIYA DRAGS HIM AROUND.



Haruka Tachibana
FATHER RUNS THE RIDER HOUSE (LODGE AND RESTAURANT) WHERE TAISUKE SPENDS A NIGHT. CHEERFUL, TENDER HOKKAIDO GIRL.

ALIVE
We are alive on this planet, and they arrived... THE FINAL EVOLUTION


GWAHH
AH...
AHH!
DON'T...
LOO-
IT SEEMS KANON EXPLODED...
I TOLD THEM THEY WERE TOO SMALL OF VESSELS TO CONTAIN IT.
LOOK, KATSUMATA.
WUV
ACRO'S HEART CHOSE HIROSE.
WUV
WUV
WUV
WUV
SWOO


CLENCH
HI...
...RO!


SEEEY
AAAHH!
SHF


Chapter 32
Always...
Hope is the denial of reality.
?!
WHOA!
GUH?!


ゴ
O
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O
モジ
FIDGET
モジ
FIDGET
オ
O
わん
SMIRK


HYOO
WOHH
HIROSE-KUN SAFELY RECEIVED THE HEART.
HWOO
GOOD WORK.
YOU ALL DID VERY WELL.
HWOO


WUV
?!
WAFT WAFT
ふよふよ
WH- WHAT...?
WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON?
SWEEE


...!
BLUB
SNEER
HWOO


POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP


DRIP
DRIP
COMRADES TOUCHED BY THE HEART CANNOT RESIST THEIR INNERMOST DESIRE.
NOT A SINGLE ONE...
YANK YANK
うぎぎぎ
!?
SWOO


A-ALL RIGHT! I'M SORRY, OKADA!
I WON'T PICK ON YOUR FRIEND ANYMORE!
OKADA-KUN'S REALLY STRONG, HUH?
AND HE CARES SO MUCH ABOUT HIS FRIENDS.
YANK
YOU'RE SO COOL, OKADA-KUN!
TH-THANKS, OKADA-KUN.
I'LL SAVE YOU ANY TIME!
I'M A HERO, AFTER ALL!
SCHWING
WAHHH


WE OWE YOU BIG TIME FOR ALL THE HELL YOU GAVE US!
ALL THE PUNCHING AND KICKING!
BACK THEN, WE DIDN'T THINK WE COULD BEAT YOU SINCE YOU WERE BIGGER THAN THE REST OF US.
BUT THEN WE REALIZED YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A FATTY!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN WALK AROUND LIKE YOU'RE HOT SHIT FOREVER!
Ahh?
You wanna go?
GIGGLE...
HOW GROSS...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!


CHACK
VIOLENCE IS NEVER THE ANSWER!
He hit us from behind...
SLUMP
WAIT! I GIVE!
IT'S NOT NICE TO PICK ON THE WEAK!
Y-YES, SIR!
...
PLOD PLOD
BADUMP
HE'S A HYPOCRITE! A FAKE HERO!
SOB
SOB
HE WAS ONLY TRYING TO ACT COOL IN FRONT OF HER!


BUT IN THE END...
...I'M THE SAME.
REAPER-CHAN...
?
I'M SORRY...
I LIED!
I PROMISED THAT I WOULD LOVE AND CHERISH ONLY YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, DIDN'T I?
I ALREADY PROMISED THAT GIRL THAT WE'D GET MARRIED WHEN WE GREW UP.


I'VE ALWAYS LOVED HER!
I'M SORR-


SLASH
HUFF ...
HUFF ...
SWOO
HUFF ...
R
R
R
G


I'VE ALWAYS ...
...WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT.
EVER SINCE I WAS LEFT WITH THE ABBEY,
TO THE PRIESTS
I BELIEVED IN MY HEART THAT THEY COULDN'T COME FOR ME BECAUSE THEY HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO.
I WAS SURE THAT THEY'D OPEN THOSE HEAVY DOORS ONE DAY.
CREAK...
YOU'RE HERE! YOU FINALLY CAME TO GET ME!


MOTHER!
FATHER!
IF YOU ARE WITH GOD...
...THEN I WILL GO TO YOU.
HWOOO...


サラ…
SRRR
NONE OF YOU CAN ESCAPE NOW.
THE PAST SHOWN BY THE HEART...
...BRINGS BOTH RAPTURE AND SORROW.
EVERYONE WILL BE ENTRANCED BY THEIR OWN PAST.


SPARING NOT A SINGLE PERSON, THE COMRADES SCATTERED AROUND THE WORLD...
...WILL BE DRAWN INTO THE HOLES IN THEIR HEARTS AND PERISH.
THIS IS YOUR FATE.
SWEE
スイッ
YOUR DESTINY.
FLAP
URGH ...!


SO I WAS THINKING...
SLUMP
W-WAS I DREAMING?
WHAT IF OUR POWER IS ACTUALLY A REFLECTION OF OUR INNER DESIRES?
FOR EXAMPLE, I LIKE STREWING THINGS ABOUT BEAUTIFULLY, SO I USE BUBBLES!
HUH? WHAT'S WITH THAT? THAT'S DUMB!


THEN WHY DO YOU USE EXPLOSIONS, KANON?
...
I DUNNO.
MAYBE I JUST WANTED TO SEE PEOPLE'S FACES EXPLODE.
WHAT ABOUT MORIO'S WIND?
HUH?!
UM...
NO REAL REASON.
DON'T TELL ME,
DO YOU WANT TO BECOME THE WIND OR FLY IN THE SKY OR SOMETHING, KEN-CHAN?
L-LIKE I SAID, I DON'T...
NO WAY! SERIOUSLY?! HOW LAME!
THIS IS WHY I DON'T LIKE TALKING ABOUT MYSELF...


WHEN I WAS A KID, IT WAS MY DREAM TO BECOME A PILOT.
I REALLY HAD MY HEART SET ON IT.
BUT AS I GREW UP...
...I STARTED TO FEEL EMBARRASSED ABOUT MY DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT SOMETIMES I STILL THINK,
"WHAT IF I TRIED HARDER BACK THEN?"
NO...
I DIDN'T HAVE THE PASSION TO PURSUE MY DREAM.


I FOUND HAPPINESS IN TAKING THE EASY STANCE...
...OF LETTING MY DREAMS STAY DREAMS.


CRASH
MAAAN ...
DAMN IT!
THIS IS ALL TAISUKE'S FAULT!


WITHOUT HIS COOKING, I JUST END UP DRINKING BOOZE!
Now I have to go shopping again.
HE BETTER COME BACK SOON!
THAT IDIOT-
HYAHA!


SPLTCH
KYAH!
SOME...
SOMEONE JUST FELL FROM THE BUILDING!
CHATTER
KYAAAAAAHH
H-H-HOLY SHIT! OUR EYES MET!
CHATTER
THAT OLD LADY WAS LAUGHING AS SHE FELL!
EEK!
SUI-CIDE?!
PRO-BABLY, RIGHT?
CHATTER
AAH!
SNAP
OH, MAN... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

SOMEONE COME QUICK!
?!
藤薬局
ESSE
KYAHAHA!
WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
HEY... THIS GIRL'S HOLDING A LIGHTER!
I KNEW IT. THIS WORLD SO WORTHLESS, AND SO ARE ALL OF YOU!
CHIK
DEATH IS THE ULTIMATE...

SNOOSH
!
OH, MY GOD. THIS IS JUST LIKE...
AHHHH!
NEWS FLASH
BWOM
Panasonic
Suicides reported around the world. At least 560 people are said to be dead in Japan alone. Could this be a second outbreak?



Suicides reported arou
Could this be a second
YOU...
YOU WITNESSED A SUICIDE?!
I MET EYES WITH THAT GIRL.
THEN SHE... SMILED...
WHEN I SAW THAT SHE WAS DEAD, I SUDDENLY FELT SO... JEALOUS!
AM I LOSING IT?
IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE!
AHHHH!
KYAAAA!!
Panasonic


TAISUKE ...!
TAISUKE. THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO CHOOSE.


YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS.
ONE IS TO LIVE BARELY ALIVE, THE OTHER IS TO ACCEPT CERTAIN DEATH.
...CHOOSE LIFE.
YOU MUSTN'T...

ヒュゥ
HWOO


Phew...
...EVERYONE HAS PERISHED.
IT APPEARS...
TWITCH


PLIP
WHAT WILL YOU DO, TAISUKE?
LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE AT THE LAKE BIT THE BIG ONE.
HEY...
YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH TO REPENT.
I'M SURE YOUR PARENTS WILL FORGIVE YOU.
C'MON. LET'S TAKE IT EASY.


STEP
!
H-HEY, WAIT!
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE KILLED BY HIROSE, ANYWAY!
WHY NOT DIE A PEACEFUL DEATH NOW?!
HEY!
TAISUKE!


I MADE IT OUT...?
WHAT ABOUT THE REAPER?
!
THAT BOY...
!
HE ISN'T BREATHING...!
RUSTLE...


WH-WHAT HAPPENED ...
TO ALL THESE PEOPLE?!
HI- HIROSE-KUN...
AH...
THAT'S...


I-
IMPOSSIBLE...


WHY ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?
HIRO...
I CAME ALL THIS WAY BECAUSE I ALWAYS HAD FAITH IN YOU.
BUT...
YOU'RE ALL YOUR SISTER HAS NOW.
YOU HAVE TO PROTECT HER.


THE YOU I ONCE KNEW...
...ISN'T IN THERE ANYMORE, IS HE?
HAHA.
YOU NEVER CHANGE, TAISUKE.

YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT THE PAST?
I SAW THE FUTURE, YOU KNOW.
AN IDEAL WORLD WHERE I LIVE FREELY.
A PERFECT FUTURE WHERE EVERYTHING IS NEW.


BUT IN THE FUTURE I SAW...
...YOU WEREN'T THERE!
Chapter 32 / End

ALIVE

We are alive on this planet, and they arrived... THE FINAL EVOLUTION


HOW CAN THIS BE?
WHY IS HE STILL ALIVE?!
ARE NOT ALL COMRADES WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY ACRO'S HEART'S POWER...
...SUPPOSED TO CHOOSE DEATH?!


Chapter 33
A Tale of Life
We are alive on this planet, and they arrived...


CHAOS...
BACK THEN,
YOU KEPT IT BOTTLED UP, DIDN'T YOU?
DESPAIR... RESENT-MENT... GUILT...
YOU KEPT A LID ON THE HOLE IN YOUR HEART.


BUT NOW YOUR EYES...
...SHOW A HOLE CREATED BY CHAOS CLEAR AS DAY.
IN THE END...
...YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT SINCE THEN.
AND YOU HAVE CHANGED,
HIROSE.
GLARE
THAT'S RIGHT.
I MADE IT OUT OF THERE.


EVERY-
THING IS
CLEAR
NOW.
ギリッ
CLENCH
...


TAISUKE ...?
THAT'S RIGHT! I REMEMBER NOW!
HE'S TAISUKE!
HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT?
IF YOU LEAVE THIS HOUSE, YOUR MEMORIES WILL BE ERASED.
YOU'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETURN HERE.


JUST LIKE HIROSE-KUN...
...I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT JOB FOR YOU.
TAISUKE!
!
KSH
KSH
KSH
M-MEGU?!


HWOO
MEGU! STAY AWAY!
GWOH
PATSCH


RUSTLE
MEGU!
AHH...
...
HA HA. SO SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
HM...?


DID YOU THINK SHE DIED?
UGH...
IF YOU FAILED TO PROTECT HER,
JUST LIKE YOU FAILED TO PROTECT THE GIRL IN BRAIDS...
SKRCH
YOU'RE TREMBLING?
...WHICH WOULD YOU RESENT?
ME...


OR YOUR OWN POWERLESS-NESS?
JWOHH


?!
GSHH
HE EVAPORATED THE WATER AND PARTED THE LAKE?!
WHAT POWER!
WHOOSH


ダッ
TMP


BOOF
?!
POWER-
LESS...


SCARY, ISN'T IT?
I KNOW...
WHEN YOU REALIZE YOUR OWN POWERLESS-NESS,
YOU LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF.
OR COULD IT BE...
...IT'S ME YOU'RE AFRAID OF, KANOU-KUN?
HWOO


PAH
PAH
PAH
HUH...?
SLUMP
SPLOSH


BLUB
ゴボッ
...!
HEHE...
GRGH


SUPERB! TO THINK HE'S MADE THE HEART'S POWER HIS OWN!
HE IS A VESSEL FAR GREATER THAN KANON.
THE DIFFERENCE IN POWER IS EVIDENT. THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AS THINGS STAND.
HOWEVER...
WITH HOW PERFECT HE HAS TURNED OUT...
...I'M NOT SURE IF MY POWER IS ENOUGH TO KEEP A HOLD ON HIM.
!
FZZT



SUSHH
HEHE! YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!
WITH YOU SEALED OFF, THE BATTLE IS AS GOOD AS...
!


?!
PRSH
FWOO
HUH...?
THUD


NA—


RUSTLE
HEH...
KRUU
WHAT?
WHY ARE THEY...?
HAS THERE BEEN A DEVIATION IN MY PLAN? NO...
WHY ARE THEY ALIVE?!
THE ONLY COMRADES THAT SHOULD HAVE SURVIVED ARE ME AND HIROSE-KUN!
IT IS FOOLISH TO TRY TO SURMISE ACRO'S HEART'S POWER.
WHIRL


WILL THAT DESTROY... EVERYTHING?!
SPLASH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SPLISH
HUFF
HUFF
RUSTLE
HUFF


FWISH
FWISH
THE HEART SHOWED ME SOME-THING.
MEMO-RIES...
...FROM A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
SK
...!
WANNA SEE?


THE MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO COME TO THIS PLANET.
A TALE OF LIFE VERY SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.


LONG AGO, ON A PLANET MUCH LIKE EARTH...
...A CERTAIN PEOPLE LIVED.
WITH UNRIVALED INTELLIGENCE THAT EARNED THEM THE STATUS AS THE ULTIMATE LIFE FORM...
...THEY CREATED A HIGHLY ADVANCED CIVILIZATION AND AMASSED STAGGERING WEALTH AND RESOURCES.
THEIR AVARICE KNEW NO LIMITS.
IN ORDER TO FULFILL THEIR AMBITION, THEY CONTINUED TO MOVE EVER FORWARD.
ATTACHMENT FOR LIFE, UNQUENCHABLE THIRST FOR EVOLUTION...
THAT IS WHAT BECAME THEIR FOLLY.


THE LAND PERISHED,
AND EVEN THE PLANET ITSELF SEEMED TO GIVE UP ON LIVING.
THEY FELL FROM PROSPERITY TO DEVASTATION...
BACKED INTO A CORNER...
...UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THEIR LEADER, THE PEOPLE MOVED TO USE THEIR LAST RESORT.
THEY DISCARDED THEIR FLESH...
...AND FLED TO SPACE AS A COLLECTIVE CONSCIENCE.
IT WAS THE BIRTH OF AN IMMORTAL LIFE FORM!
THEY MANAGED TO ATTAIN THE ULTIMATE EVOLUTION.


OR SO THEY THOUGHT...
ALL THAT AWAITED THEM IN SPACE WAS DARKNESS...
...AND AN ETERNITY OF BOREDOM.
TIME PASSED...
...AND AFTER EONS OF STAGNATION, THEY, NO...
...THE LIFE FORCE THAT LOST EVEN THE SENSE SELF FINALLY DISCOVERED LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS.


"DEATH ITSELF IS THE FINAL EVOLUTION!"
"IF WE BORROW THE BODIES OF ANOTHER ORGANISM, WE CAN TRULY DIE."
THE LIFE FORCE CONTINUED TO WANDER THE UNIVERSE, AND EVENTUALLY...
...THEY FOUND WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR!


BA
DUMP
RUSTLE...
THIS IS THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE SUICIDE VIRUS.
BADUMP
...
BADUMP
WHILE MOST ATTAINED THE DEATH THEY SOUGHT...
...THERE WERE OTHERS WHO FOUND REFUGE IN THE HOLES OF THE HEARTS OF THE SURVIVORS.


IN OTHER WORDS, US, THE COMRADES.
THEY DIDN'T DIE LIKE THEY DESIRED...
...BUT I WAS GIVEN THE POWER TO GRANT DEATH.
BY ADHERING TO PEOPLE, THEY REDISCOVERED THEIR SENSE OF SELF.
AN ABUNDANCE OF DIVERSE POWERS...
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD BE BORN IF THEY WERE TO GATHER TOGETHER?


ボ
PWOOOF
ッ
HE HE HE.
HA HA ...
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
SCRITCH


BWOH
IT'S LIKE HE'S MADE OF AIR...!
PAH
AGH! URGH...
WHETHER YOU WIN OR LOSE...
WHISH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


ALL THAT COMES FROM IT ARE SILLY FEUDS LIKE THIS.
IT'S TRULY MEANING-LESS.
NOW DO YOU REALIZE IT'S POINTLESS TO FIGHT ME?
PANT
PANT
...
SHUT... THE HELL UP!


IF YOU SEE THIS...
...WILL YOU FINALLY UNDER-STAND?
SWISH


BOOM



SCREECH
G
R
R
A-AN EARTH-QUAKE?
!
IT STOP-PED...
CLACK


WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?!
TH-THE MOUNTAIN! IT'S...!
WAS THERE A LANDSLIDE?! A-ANYWAY, WE SHOULD CONTACT THE STATION!
CAW
CAW
HARU...


I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.
EVEN THOUGH THAT MASSIVE POWER PASSED RIGHT BY ME...
I SENSED HIS BLOODLUST.
THERE WASN'T EVEN BLOODLUST.


IT HAS NO SUBSTANCE.
HIROSE'S POWER...
...IS "NOTHINGNESS."
クス HEH
クス HEH...


HIROSE...
TELL ME.
J-JUST WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?
I WANT TO BE ALONE.
I WANT TO WIPE OUT EVERY SINGLE PERSON...


...UNTIL I'M THE LAST ONE ON THIS PLANET!
Chapter 33 / End

ALIVE

We are alive on this planet, and they arrived... THE FINAL EVOLUTION


WIPE OUT EVERYONE ON THE PLANET?
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE?
TH-THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN...
YOU'RE SO POWERLESS, TAISUKE.


HE CAN...
AS HIROSE IS NOW...
Chapter 34
What can I do?
A man can be destroyed but not defeated.


PULL
PULL
AMAMIYA-SAN! PLEASE GET UP!
WE'RE GOING TO GET KILLED IF WE STAY HERE ANY LONGER!
GWOH
HURRY!
B-BUT HARU-CHAN...



WILL YOU SHOW US THE WAY, HARU-CHAN?
O-OKAY!
OH, SHUT UP! WE CAN'T
BECAUSE I BROUGHT HER HERE...
BECAUSE OF ME, SHE'S...!


THAT...
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
AT ANY RATE, WE NEED TO RUN!
YOU KNOW HOW HORRI-FYING YUICHI HIROSE IS!
SWISH
OUR COVERAGE ENDS HERE!
OR WE'RE GOING TO BE WIPED OUT, TOO!
BOOM
PULL


WIPED OUT...
EVERY-ONE WILL DISAP-PEAR.
KATSUMATA-SAN SAID...
...THE WORLD IS GOING TO BE CLEANSED.


EVERY-THING WILL BE WASHED AWAY...
...TO MAKE IT CLEAN AGAIN.
HE'S ACTU-ALLY...
...PLAN-NING TO DO THAT.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


HIROSE'S POWER IS "NOTHING-NESS."
THE POWER TO ERASE EVERYTHING.
SCRITCH
KICK


FWOOSH
RUSTLE
WHAT CAN I DO AGAINST HIROSE...
FWOO
PLIP PLIP
...NOW THAT HE HAS NO SUBSTANCE?!


IT'S THAT WIND USER!
HE'S DEAD?!
DON'T TELL ME NAMI AND YUTA ARE, TOO!
YOU'RE POWERLESS.
SCRITCH


MY POWER IS...
CLENCH
RUSTLE
!
FWISH


HE VAN-
ISHED...?


I SWEAR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITHOUT US?
WUV WUV WUV
NAMI! YUTA!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
YEAH, SOMEHOW...


MEGU!
SHE'S JUST UNCON-SCIOUS.
S-SORRY, YOU GUYS.
...
TAISUKE... HIRO WILL BREAK THROUGH MY POWER BEFORE LONG.
IT WON'T BE ANY USE THE NEXT TIME HE FINDS US.
GUH...


HE'S GONNA KILL ALL OF US AT THIS RATE.
WE SHOULD RUN.
WE CAN'T BEAT HIROSE...


...
HIROSE!
FLAP
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT WANTING TO BE ALONE?!
YOUR DUTY IS TO DELIVER THE HEART TO THE ONE.


A VESSEL IS MERELY A VESSEL.
DON'T MAKE UNNEC-ESSARY DECISIONS!
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT WE WENT THROUGH TO BUILD YOU INTO WHAT YOU ARE?
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING FOR A WHILE NOW.
IT'S WEIRD FOR AN OWL TO TALK.


BO
OSH
?!
Y-YOU BASTARD!
YOU'D BETRAY THE ONE?!
PLIP PLIP
THUD


BOOM
THIS IS BAD.
HE'S OBTAINED HIS OWN WILL WITH ACRO'S HEART.


THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO STOP HIM...
ガサ
RUSTLE
I'LL KILL HIROSE!
YUTA, LET ME OUT OF HERE.
A-ARE YOU NUTS, TAISUKE?
HE'S RIGHT. YOU GOING WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.


YUTA... DO YOU REMEMBER THE "CHOICE" OLD MAN MISAKI MENTIONED?
YOU MEAN... BETWEEN "BARELY BEING ALIVE" OR "CERTAIN DEATH"?!
I THINK NOW IS THE TIME TO CHOOSE.
DO I FIGHT, OR DO I RUN?
D-DON'T BE STUPID! YOU'LL BE KILLED FOR SURE!
BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF LIFE STILL EXISTS, RIGHT?
MAYBE, BUT...!
I THINK I STILL STAND A CHANCE.


I FINALLY UNDER-STAND...
MEMORIES...
...FROM A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
THE MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO CAME TO THIS PLANET.
WANNA SEE?
...WHAT MY POWER REALLY IS.
THAT'S WHY I ALSO SAW...
...JUST WHAT I HAVE TO DO.


KANOU, DON'T TELL ME...
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF DOING ANYTHING STUPID, ARE YOU?
'COURSE NOT!
IT'S JUST,
LIKE YOU DID BEFORE.
BUMP
I WANT TO SETTLE THINGS...
...ON MY OWN.
HMPH
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU, NAMI?


...
YEAH...
!
YOU, TOO, NAMI-CHAN?! TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM!
TAISUKE! AT THIS RATE YOU REALLY WILL...!
QUIT TRYING TO KILL ME OFF, WILL YA?
I'M SAYING YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF WINNING!
DON'T CRY. YOU'RE A BOY, YUTA.
YOU HAVE TO PROTECT NAMI AND MEGU.
...


BUT NAMI-CHAN IS SUPER STRONG...
T-TRUE. SHE'S NO ORDINARY GIRL.
SNIFF
BUT...
Uhh...
TWITCH
ヒクリ
...
MUMBLE
ホソ...
I'M ONLY A MIDDLE SCHOOLER...
FLINCH
HM...?
MIDDLE SCHOOL? YOU MEAN THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL?
WHAT OTHER KIND IS THERE?
DRIP
DRIP
C'MON, BOY.
LIKE THAT?!
In Taisuke's head.
★Actual size may differ.
I thought you were older than me!
Like what?
I'M A THIRD YEAR.*
SHE'S A THIRD YEAR.*
PSHH
*AGE 14-15


WAIT! IF YOU'RE A THIRD YEAR... THAT MEANS YOU'RE A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME?!
SO WHEN I WAS A FIRST YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, YOU WERE IN SIXTH GRADE?!
SNIFF
SHE'S JUST A KIIIIID!
I DON'T SEE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE.
Hold on.
AND THAT MEANS YOU TAKE EXAMS THIS YEAR!
YOU'RE FIGHTING AT AN IMPORTANT TIME LIKE THIS?!
ARE YOU OKAY?! DO YOU WANT ME TO TUTOR YOU?!
"LET'S MAKE A GOOD COUNTRY." The Kamakura Shogunate... Wait, huh?!
I REFUSE.
PFF!
WHO'D WANT TO BE TAUGHT BY DUMB-SUKE?
DON'T JUST SLAP "DUMB" ONTO MY NAME!
KOFF
YOU GUYS...
I used unnecessary energy...
SWAY SWAY
Don't die yet...
IF YOU HAVE THIS MUCH TIME TO MESS AROUND, THEN GET GOING!
HIROSE'S GONNA FIND US!


ALSO...
TAKE CARE OF MEGU!
...
I SEE...
TAISUKE'S HEART IS ALREADY SET.
Now let me outta here!


ALL RIGHT. IF YOU REALLY INSIST!
I'LL LET YOU OUT, SO YOU BETTER COME BACK!
IF YOU DON'T...
...I REALLY WILL CALL YOU A LOSER FROM NOW ON!
...
LIKE I'D LET THAT HAPPEN, BRAT!
KRSH
TAI...
WAIT...!


MEGU!
YOU'RE AWAKE!
WHY WON'T YOU STAY WITH US, TAISUKE?
LET'S GO HOME TOGETH-ER...
B-BUT MEGU, I HAVE TO...
IF WE GO OUR SEPA-RATE WAYS NOW...
...I GET THE FEELING WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!




?!
HERE!
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS, SO DON'T CRY ANYMORE, OKAY?


D-DID HE JUST MAKE A FLOWER BLOOM?! IS THAT ALSO PART OF TAISUKE'S POWER?!
WAIT! I'VE SEEN THAT LIGHT BEFORE...
...
UMM. ALSO, WOULD YOU MIND TELLING MY SISTER FOR ME?
SHE WON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING I SAY.
PLUS, SHE'LL DEFINITELY BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF ME.
NO...


TELL HER YOURSELF.
...


HUFF
HUFF
...
I THOUGHT YOU RAN AWAY.


FW
OO


BOOM
BA
BA
?!
BOOM


ズR
ズR
ゴR
ゴR
ゴR
ゴG
I-IT'S FINE. A MOUNTAIN JUST CRUMBLED ...
ゴGRR
DON'T WORRY!
ゴGRR
TAISUKE WILL BEAT HIROSE!


TAISUKE AND HIROSE-KUN...
EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE FOUGHT IN THE PAST...
...I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM HIT EACH OTHER.
HIROSE-KUN DIDN'T LIKE VIOLENCE...
...SO TAISUKE NEVER RAISED HIS HAND AGAINST HIM.
IS IT REALLY TOO LATE TO GO BACK...?
KANOU TOLD YOU NOT TO CRY, REMEMBER?


RIGHT NOW, ALL WE CAN DO FOR HIM IS RUN AWAY!
...
TAISUKE'S POWER...
...
JUST WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT?


IT WAS ALMOST LIKE WHEN I WAS PETRIFIED...
KYAHH!
!
FWUMP
NAMI-CHAN!
WH-WHAT HAP-PENED ?!



STAY BACK!
HUH...?
!
SNAP
PAH


GRAB
...
!
FWUMP
DEAR ME. THIS HAS TURNED INTO QUITE A DEBACLE.

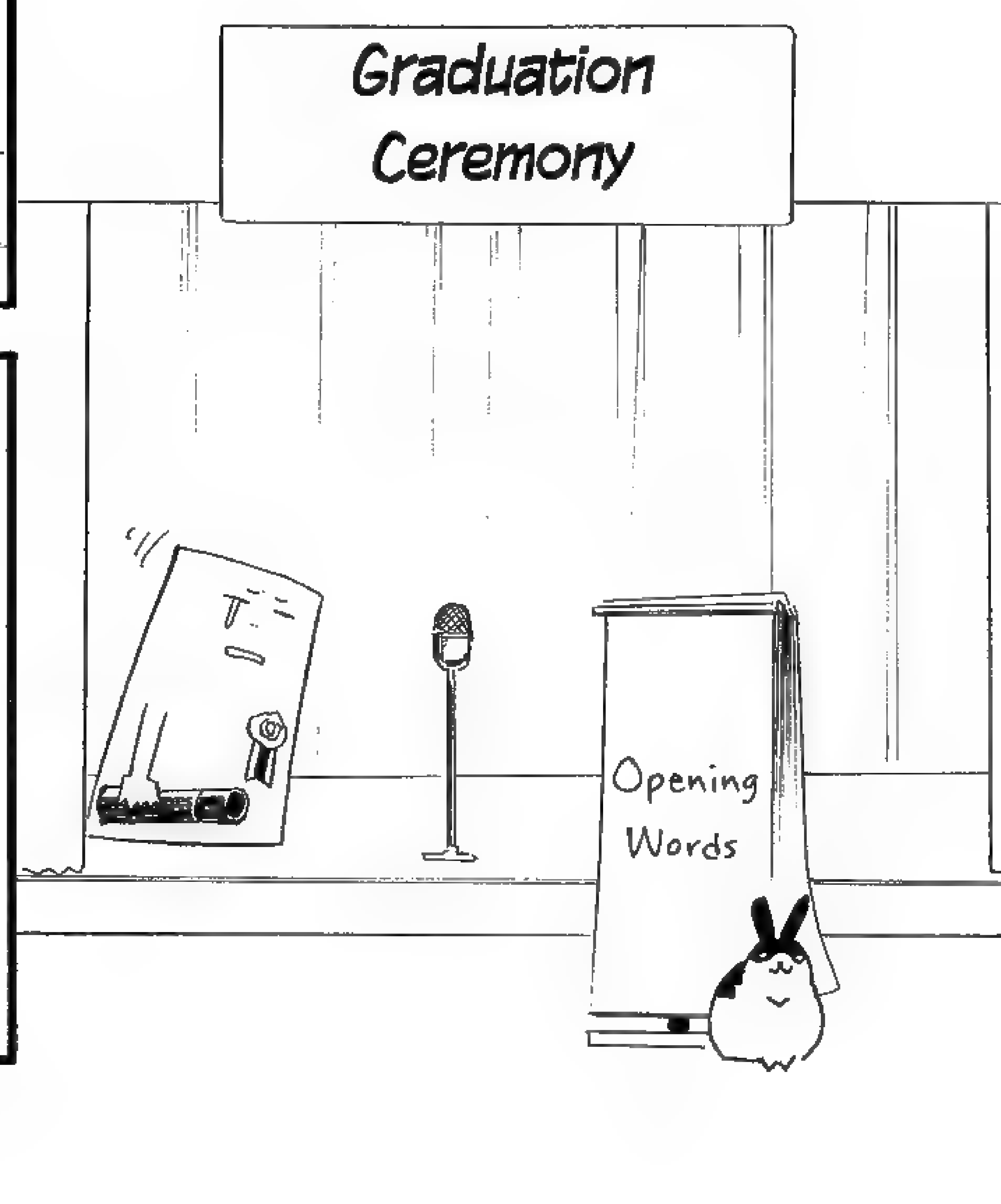

NOW THAT I'VE LET HIROSE-KUN WALK ON HIS OWN...
...I CAN'T CONTROL HIM WITH MY POWER ANYMORE.
WITH THE POWER HE'S OBTAINED, HE WILL VERY LIKELY BE ABLE TO CREATE THE WORLD HE ENVISIONS.
BUT I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
TWITCH
AND IN ORDER TO STOP HIM, I NEED YOUR POWER, OCHIAI-SAN.
SHIVER
SHIVER

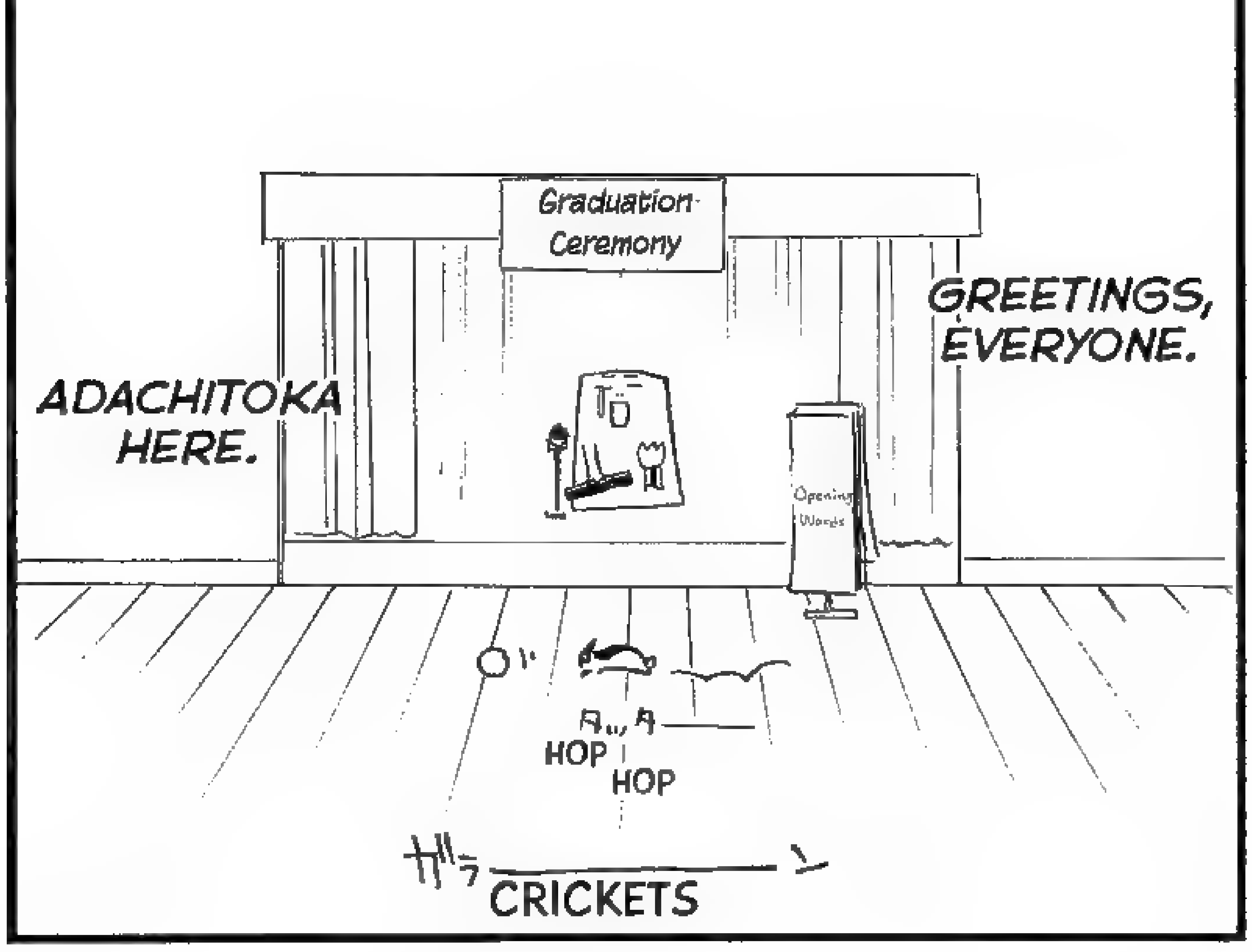


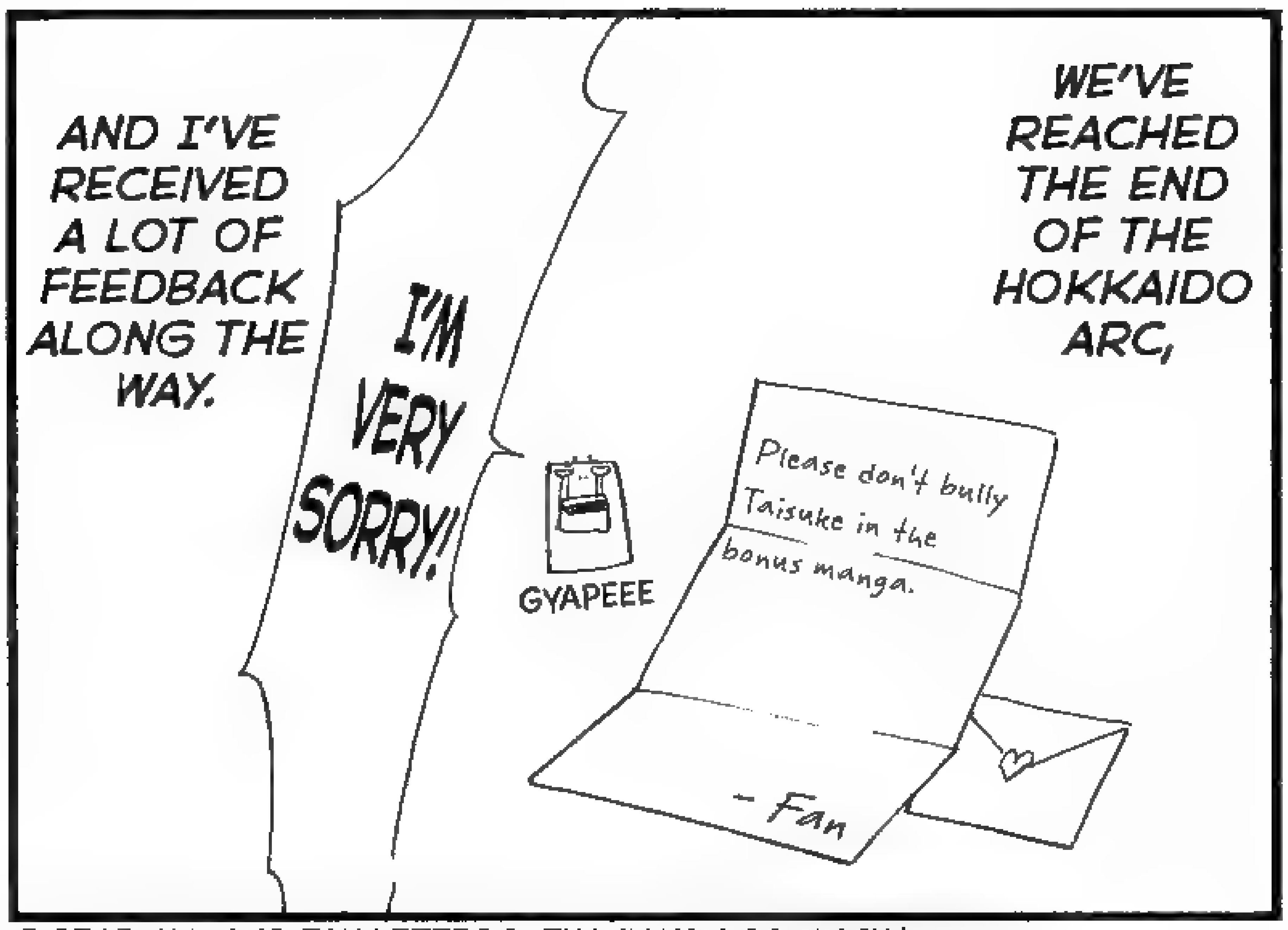
Chapter 34 / End


ALIVE
We are alive on this planet, and they arrived... THE FINAL EVOLUTION

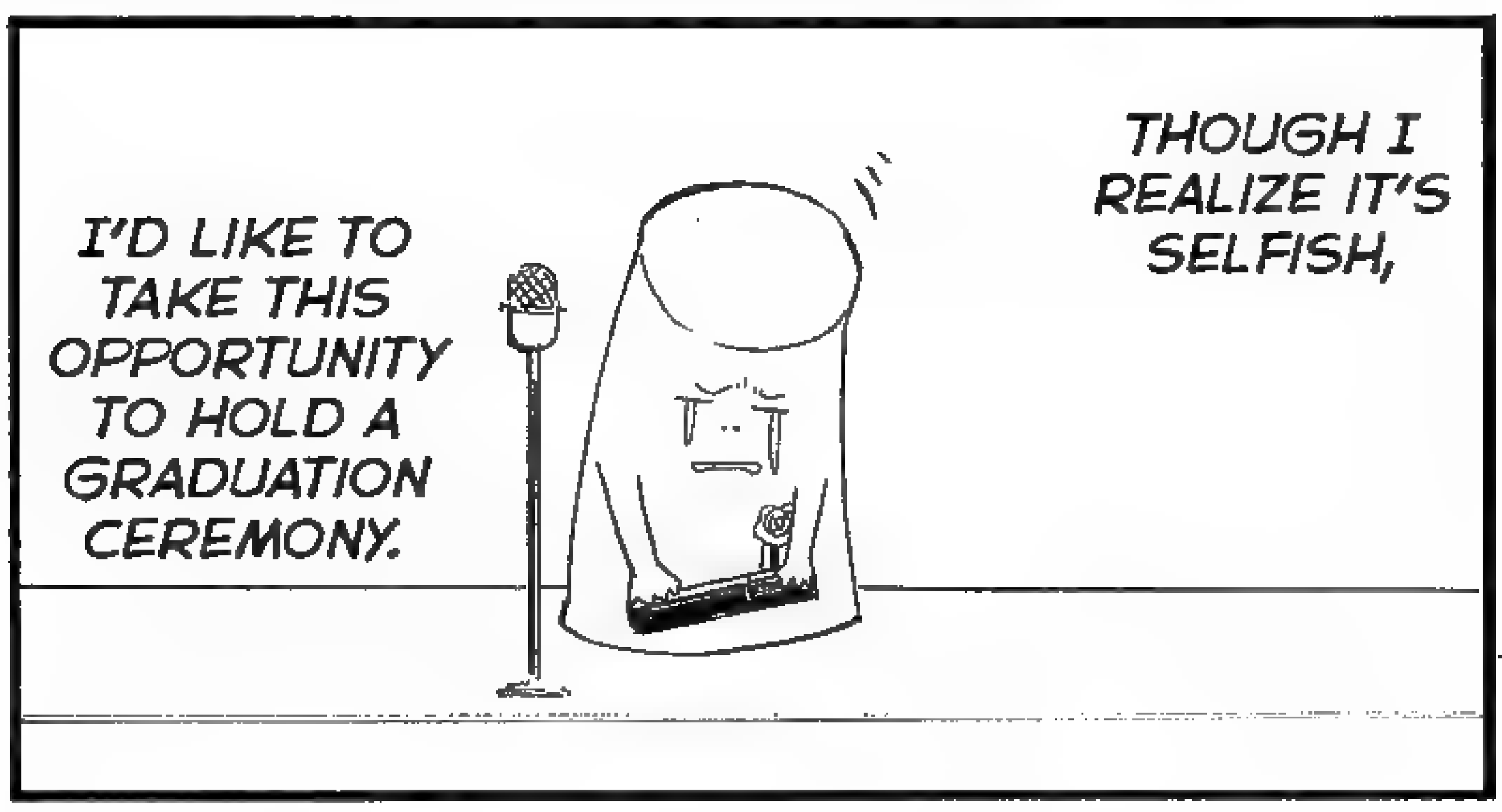
LIGHT VISUAL MANGA 9

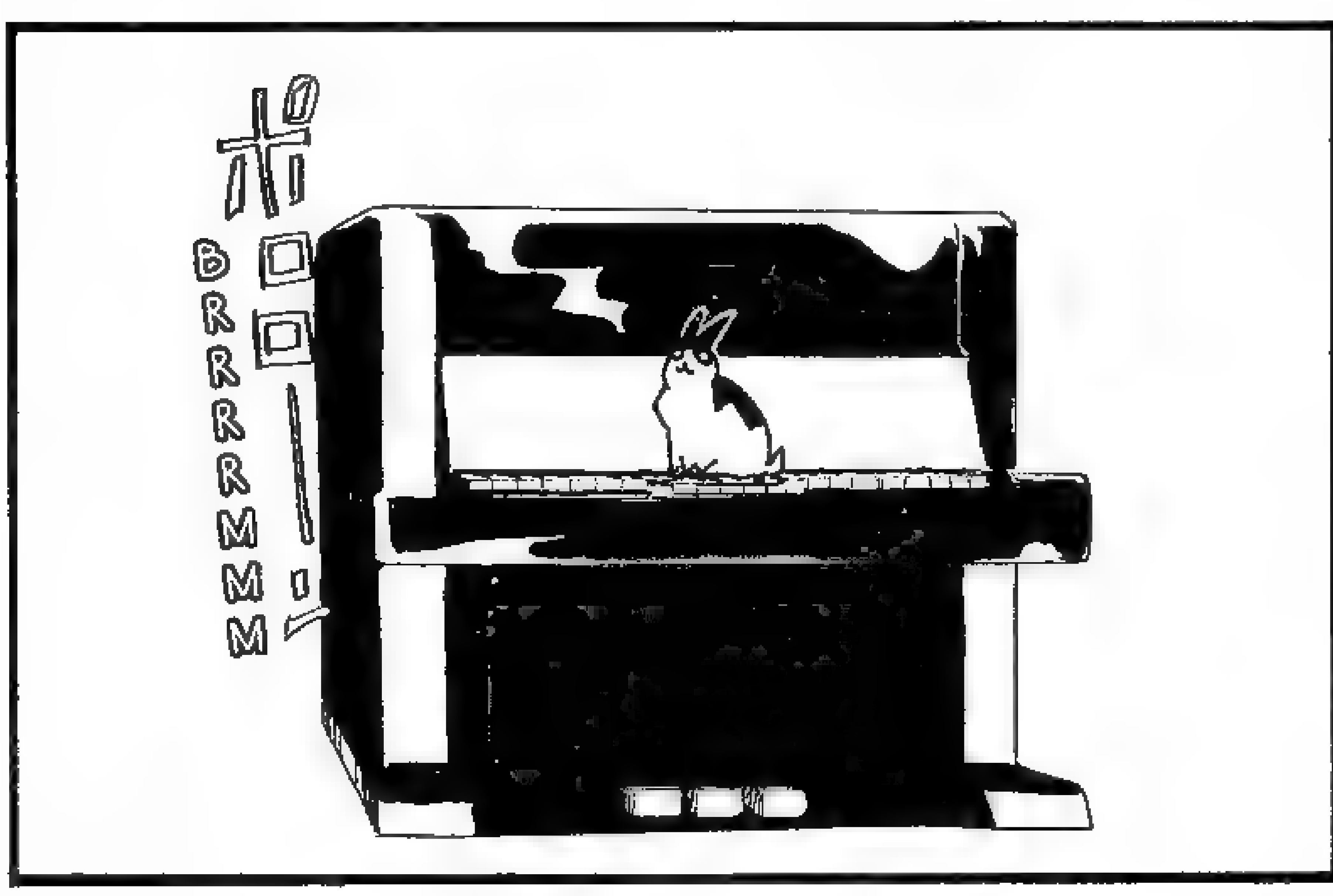







I READ ALL OUR FAN LETTERS. THANK YOU SO MUCH!





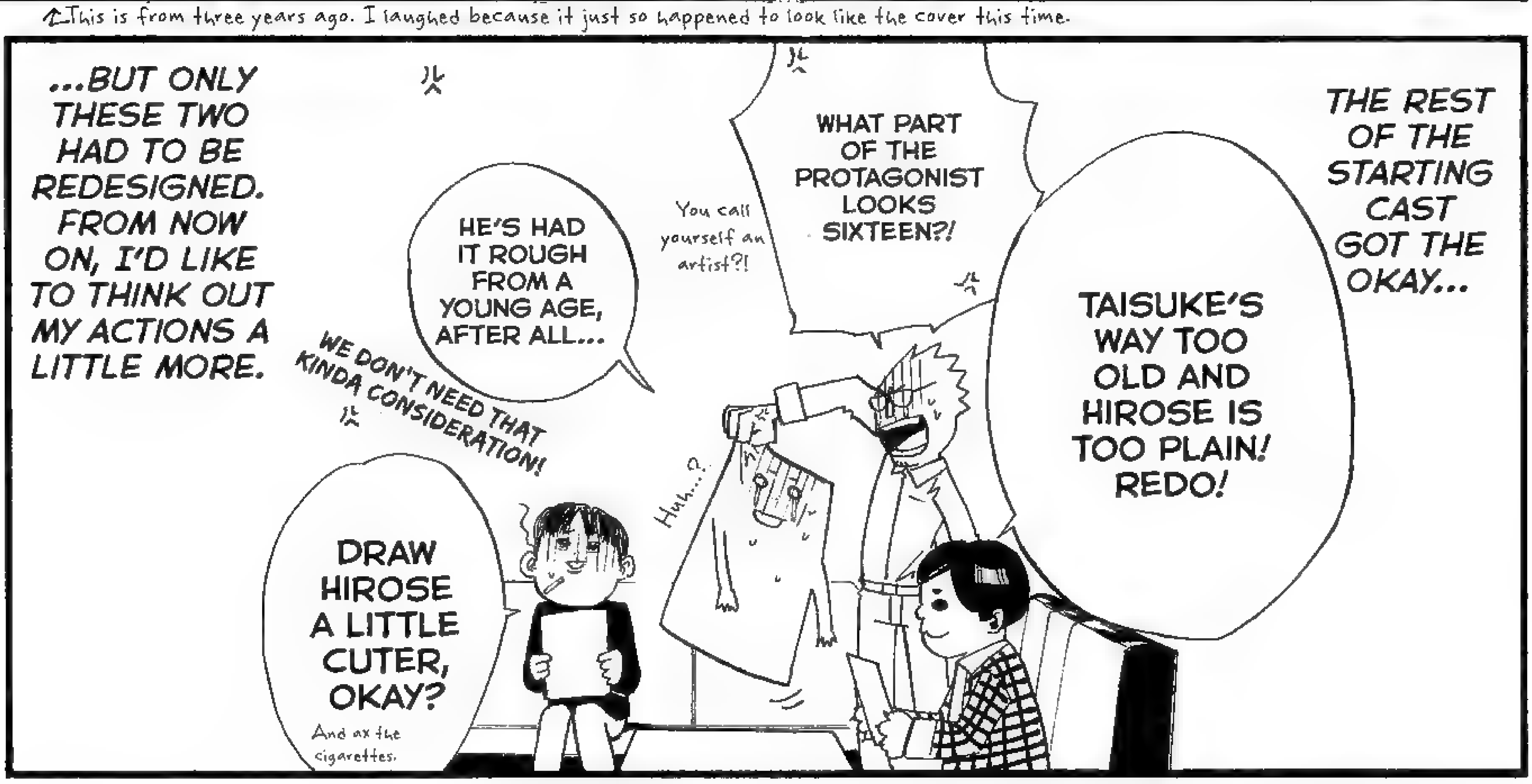


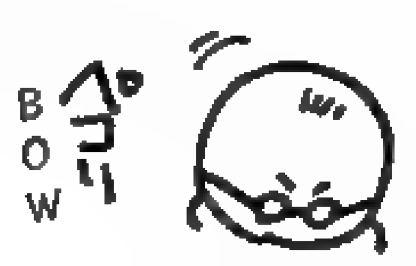
HOW FAST TIME FLIES, I CANNOT BELIEVE HOW QUICKLY THE MOMENTS HAVE PASSED,
a borrowed book.
Inconsistencies in inking are inconsistencies of the heart.
Tones should be shaved at a 22.5 degree angle.
make it a blue paper return.
AND HOW DEEPLY INDEBTED WE FEEL TO OUR TEACHERS.
ALWAYS BE HEALTHY IN MIND AND BODY!
OSU!
STAFF
We learned a lot from our teachers and upperclassmen.
THE PRECIOUS YEARS HAVE COME AND GONE TOO SOON,
MONTHLY MANGA IS HEAVY, SO IT'S UNFIT FOR READING AT THE STAND.
Please purchase your book and read it in the comfort of your own home!
HERE WITH YOU IN OUR "GARDEN OF LEARNING,"
OSU!
WE HAVE LEARNED FROM YOU THE RIGHT WAY
2006
2005
YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP?
HUH?
2004
2003
TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.
Ehehe...
Run away!
← Alive's main assistants. →
AND NOW IS THE TIME TO SAY FAREWELL WITH AN ETERNALLY GRATEFUL HEART.
Well, then. I'd like to wrap this up.
AHEM
COUGH
RIP
Solo Choir "What Was Wrong with Me Back Then?"


I MOVED TO THE KASUKABE AREA OF TOKYO!
I WAS A FOOL!
I TOLD YOU TO MOVE TO TOKYO! (EDITOR)
Books
Books
8bit
I KNOW! I'M IN SAITAMA!
HUH?!
IT'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR...
I WAS A FOOL!
I REMEMBER THOSE ROUGH DAYS OF THE MANGA COMPETITION!
I WAS A STARVING ARTIST!
I have to save 40,000 yen and a month to move...
NOM
NOM
I ate a lot of makeshift pancakes.
BUT YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW!
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN MY ENTIRE VISION WAS IN SCREEN TONES!
IS THIS SOME KINDA ILLNESS?
I'M FINE NOW, THOUGH!
The world looks like this. ↗
AT THE WORST OF IT, I ONLY HAD 25 YEN IN THE BANK!
I wonder if...
...I can eat mist.
POSTAL SAVINGS
JUST 25 YEN! AND...



↑This is from three years ago. I laughed because it just so happened to look like the cover this time.





We hope to see you all again soon.



ALIVE 9

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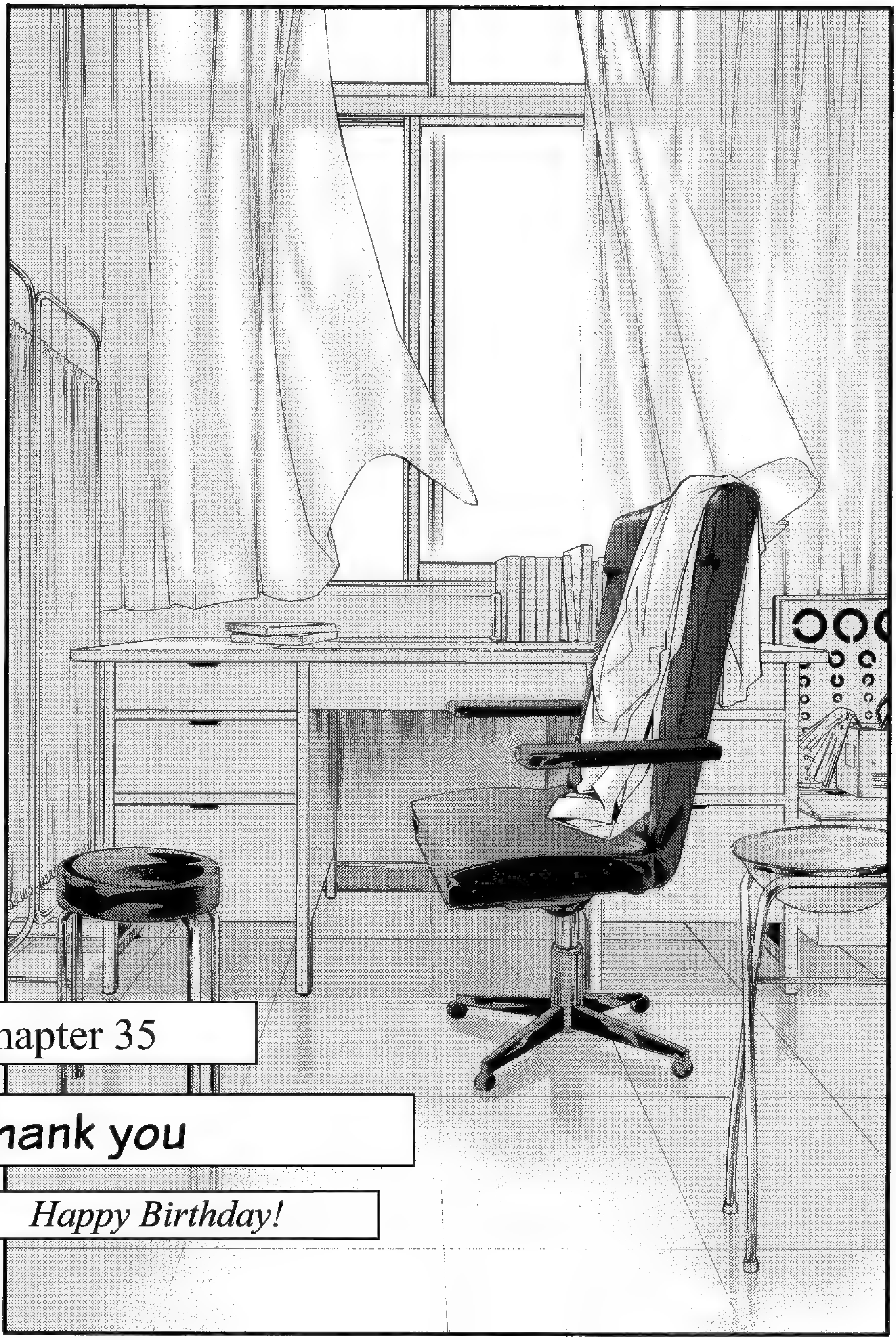
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Chapter 35

Thank you

Happy Birthday!






ズ Z
ズ R
R ズ
ゴ G
ゴ R
ゴ R
ゴ R


BLUB BLUB
ゴボボ
CRACK
ビキ
CRACK
CRACK
ビキ
SNAP
パキ
POP
ボキ
THIS AREA IS IN TATTERS FROM HIROSE'S ATTACKS.
WHAT INSANE POWER.


NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRY...!
BOOF
...MY ATTACKS WON'T WORK ON HIROSE.
BUT...
...HE DOESN'T DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY.
SO I'M SURE HE MUST STILL BE THERE.
IF I CAN JUST ISOLATE THE SPACE HE'S IN...
SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT.
THE PLACE WHERE I BELONG.


A PERFECT WORLD WITHOUT PEOPLE.
WITHOUT PEOPLE, HUH?
BUT Y'KNOW...
...I SAW IT BACK THEN.
THE MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO CAME TO THIS PLANET.
IT FLOODED INTO MY MIND, TOO.
A GLIMPSE OF HIROSE'S CONFLICTION...



WH
ACK
WAIT!
HANG ON A SECOND, KANOU-KUN!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUH ...?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR. THIS SEEMS PRETTY HARSH.
HUFF
HUFF
CAN YOU BLAME ME?!


THESE GUYS ALWAYS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR PASSIVENESS!
THEY WON'T GET IT UNLESS YOU POUND SOME SENSE INTO THEM!
HERE! YOUR WALLET.
TOSS
Guhh...
Y'KNOW, HIRO, EVEN IF YOU DON'T HIT THEM,
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST STAND UP FOR YOURSELF.
GLARE
INFIRMARY
MY WORDS DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER.
SCUFF
...



I DON'T HAVE ANY POWER...
JEEZ, YOU'RE THIN. ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY?
I DON'T GET BIGGER NO MATTER HOW MUCH I EAT.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE, DIDN'T I?
GRR GRR GRR
UNCLE! UN-CLE!
I JUST HOPE YOU DON'T BREAK ANY BONES...
MAYBE I SHOULD...
...RESHAPE THAT DUMB HEAD OF YOURS, HUH?!
COME HERE!
GYAHH!
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE! SOMEONE CALL SOCIAL SERVICES!
That must be what it's like at the Kanou home...
I WISH TAISUKE WOULD STOP FIGHTING TOO, SINCE HE'S WEAK.
BUT I GUESS I DON'T HATE...
...THAT HE DOES IT TO PROTECT HIS FRIENDS.


AH! YOUKO-SAN?!
...
I WONDER HOW LONG I'VE FELT THIS WAY.
WHENEVER I'M WITH EVERY-ONE...
...A PART OF ME STILL FEELS ALONE.


AT SOME POINT IT BECAME OBVIOUS.
THE DIFFER-ENCE...
...IN OUR WORTH.
HEY...
THANKS FOR ALWAYS HELPING ME, TAISUKE.
HUH? WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!
BUT I'M SURE IT'S FINE THIS WAY.
SQUEAK


DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?
I JUST HAVE TO KEEP UP WITH KANOU-KUN...
EVERY-WHERE HURTS.
...SO HE DOESN'T LEAVE ME BEHIND.
WAIT UP, KANOU-KUN!
Ow...
AFTER ALL,


I'M POWER-LESS...
GIVE ME A BREAK.
WHAT YOU WANT AND WHAT YOU'RE DOING...
...ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
YOU WANT TO BE ALONE, RIGHT?!
THEN WHY ARE YOU PLAYING AROUND LIKE THIS?!
IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, THEN JUST DO IT!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!


I WANTED TO SAVOR THE MOMENT...
...WHEN YOU GIVE UP.
NO MATTER WHO YOU WERE UP AGAINST, YOU ALWAYS HELD ON FOR DEAR LIFE.
I JUST COULDN'T UNDER-STAND THAT.
YOU NEED TO KNOW YOUR PLACE.
I WANT TO MAKE YOU REALIZE ...
...HOW POWERLESS AND PATHETIC YOU REALLY ARE.


THE SAME FUTURE AWAITS EVERYONE.
IT'S POINTLESS TO RESIST NOW.
EVEN YOU ASKING ME TO KILL YOU QUICKLY IS YOUR LAST MEANS OF RESIST-ANCE.
HOW HILAR-IOUS.
IN THE END, YOU'RE AFRAID OF DEATH, TOO.


OF COURSE I'M AFRAID.
HOW CAN I NOT BE?
YOU MUST THINK I'M NUTS FOR NOT TRYING TO RUN AWAY.
TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M DOING...
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF DYING, TOO?


YOU ALWAYS HATED FIGHTS!
EVEN NOW, YOU'RE USING THAT CONVENIENT LITTLE POWER OF YOURS...
TO RUN WITH YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS!
TWITCH
YOU WON'T EVEN TAKE THE FEW STEPS TO COME NEAR ME.
YOU'RE SCARED, AREN'T YOU?



YOU'RE SCARED OF ME.
スッ
SWISH
キン…
GLARE
CRUNCH


GRAB


TAISUKE.
IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE.
I'M SORRY,
SIS...
THUD





BWAHHH
IT'S AS IF THE GROUND IS PULSING...
THE FIRE...
TCH!
NO, WAIT...
GRAB


!
FWOH
CRACK
WH-WHAT THE?!
I CAN'T USE MY POWER WELL?!


I HAVE PEOPLE I WANT TO PROTECT.
FWOO フワー
IF YOU'RE SAYING...
...YOU WANT TO ERASE THEM ALL...


...THEN EVEN IF IT MEANS I DIE...
...I WON'T LET YOU TAKE THEM!


BOOM


M-MAGMA?!
WE'RE SURROUNDED!


SORRY, HIROSE. I CAN'T ACCEPT...
CLENCH
...THE WORLD YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE.
...!
TO BE HON-EST...
...I WAS THE ONE CHASING AFTER SOMETHING.


WHY AM I STILL ALIVE...
...WHEN I WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED THEM?
THUD
WHEN I LOST SIGHT OF MYSELF...
KYAHH!
TEACHER! SOMEONE CALL A TEACHER!
...THE ONE WHO SUPPORTED ME WAS...


THANK YOU...
...FOR BEING THERE FOR ME, HIRO.
CRACK




BOOM
NAMI!
NAMI-CHAN!


GET UP! QUICK!
YUTA ...?
WH- WHERE'S MEGUMI?
SHE WAS TAKEN BY KATSU-MATA...
YOU'RE KID-DING!
?!
WHAT THE?!
KA-NOU!


...
YU-
I'M SORRY.
I...
I MADE A PROMISE WITH TAISUKE.
EVEN THOUGH I FAILED TO PROTECT MEGU-CHAN...
...I DON'T WANT TO BREAK MY PROMISE ANY FURTHER!
THAT'S WHY,
I CAN'T LET YOU PASS!

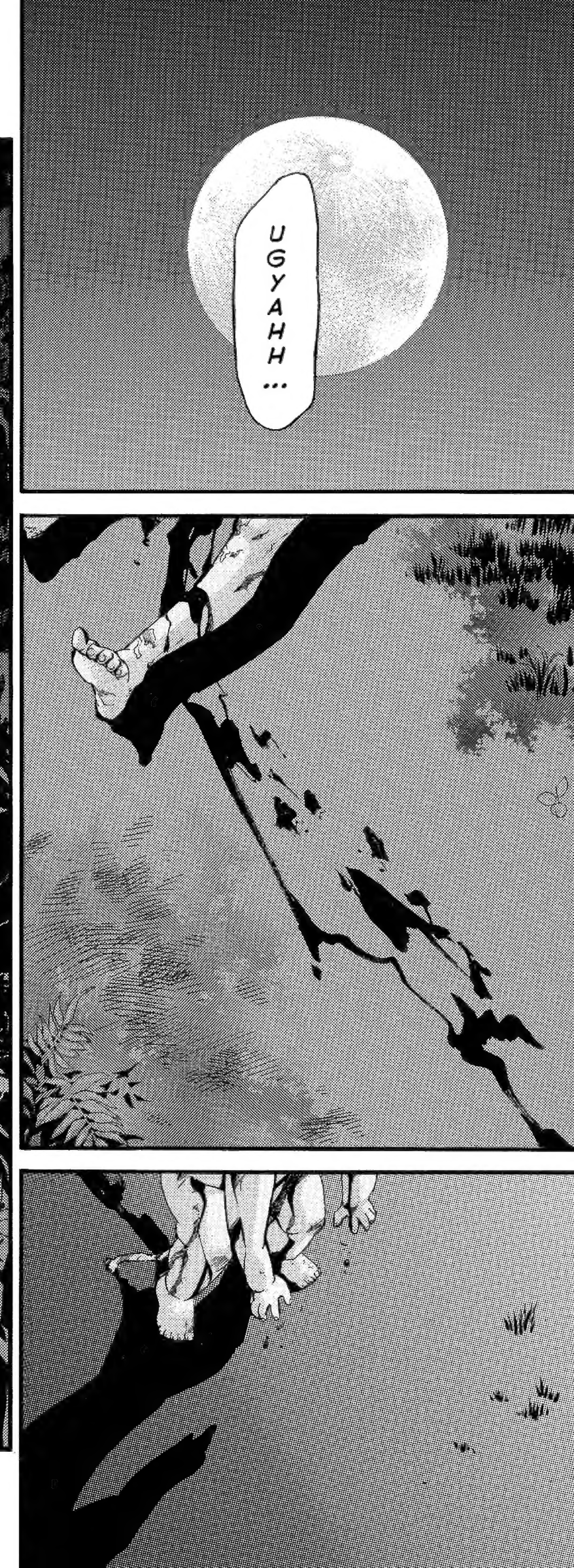

カー
HONK
カー
HONK
カー
HONK
WE CAME TO ANSWER A TRUCK ACCIDENT,
BUT WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
IT...
IT CAN'T BE!
AN ERUPTION?!


EX-CUSE ME!
WHY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
THE FIRE COLUMN IS HUGE! THE ENTIRE AREA IS GONNA BURN!
HAS ANYONE SEEN MY DAUGHTER?
AMAMIYA-SAN!
THANK GOOD-NESS!
HARU!
HUH? ISN'T SHE WITH YOU?
...
WHERE IS HARU...?


AT ANY RATE, WE NEED TO PUT THE FIRE OUT!
SLIDE
GET THE STATION ON THE LINE!
TELL THEM TO EVACUATE THE AREA!


WE'RE TOO LATE...
IT'S A SHAME WE HAD TO LOSE THOSE BOYS.
THE POWERS OF REBIRTH AND EXTINC-TION ARE GONE.
BUT AT LEAST HE MANAGED TO STOP THE VESSEL FROM GOING OUT OF CONTROL.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ACRO'S HEART?
AND JUST WHEN...


..."THE ONE" HAS BEEN BORN AT LAST.
RUSTLE





To be continued in volume 10.